

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the application and for courtesies extended during the telephone interviews.

Status of Office Action

The Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner has not indicated whether the Office Action mailed October 1, 2004 is final or non-final. Because the Office Action mailed October 1, 2004 was responsive to the Request for Continued Examination filed August 24, 2004, the Applicant believes that the Office Action mailed October 1, 2004 is non-final. The Applicant's belief is based on Applicant's understanding of Patent Office procedure governed by MPEP § 706.07(h). If Applicant's belief is incorrect, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 6. Claims 2, 4-5, 7, and 9-10 are cancelled by this reply.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicant respectfully notes that while the Examiner indicated in the Office Action mailed October 27, 2003, that initialed PTO-1449 forms were enclosed corresponding to the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 29, 2001 and August 27, 2001, no PTO-1449 forms were enclosed. Thus, the Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner forward a copy of the initialed PTO-1449 forms corresponding the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 29, 2001 and August 27, 2001.

Objection(s)

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether drawings filed on January 27, 2004 are accepted.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated Oracle 7 Administrator's Guide, Release 7.3, February 1996 (hereafter "Oracle"). At the outset the Applicant respectfully notes that only claims 1-10 were pending in the Application when the Office Action was mailed. Accordingly, Applicant views the aforementioned rejection as a rejection directed to only claims 1-10.

With respect to the rejection, claims 2, 4-5, 7, and 9-10 are cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, the rejection is moot with respect to the cancelled claims. In addition, independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended by this reply to clarify the invention. In particular, independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to clarify that the directory server includes an enumerated role entry corresponding to the enumerated role. Further, the enumerated role entry includes a number of group member attributes, where each of the group member attributes is associated with an entry in the directory server that includes the enumerated role. In addition, each entry that includes the enumerated role is within the scope of the enumerated role. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, on pages 30-31 and Figure 11 of the Instant Specification. Accordingly, to the extent that this rejection applies to the amended and non-amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Oracle does not teach or suggest a method of grouping entries in a directory server for at least the following reasons:

- (i) The Examiner has asserted that Oracle teaches a directory server. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, the Applicant respectfully asserts Oracle is directed to a relational database with no teaching or suggestion of a directory server.
- (ii) The Examiner has asserted that Oracle teaches enumerated roles. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the portions of Oracle cited by the Examiner relate to creating roles in a relational

database using SQL. Further, the portions of Oracle referenced by the Examiner do not teach or suggest an enumerated role as recited in the claims. Specifically, Oracle does not teach or suggest an Enumerated Role Entry. Further, Oracle does not teach or suggest an Enumerated Role Entry include group member attributes.

- (iii) Oracle does not teach or suggest requiring that an entry (*e.g.*, user entry) including the enumerated role is within the scope of the Enumerated Role Entry.

In view of the above, Oracle does not support the rejection with respect to any independent or dependent claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 4-5 and 9-10 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Oracle in view of U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/0132433 (hereafter "Stern"). Claims 2, 4-5, 7, and 9-10 are cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

New Claims

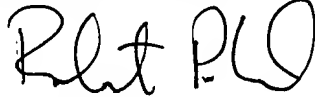
Dependent claims 11 and 12 have been added by this reply. Support for this amendments may be found, for example, on pages 6-11 of the Instant Specification. Cited references can not be used to support a rejection of these claims for at least the same reasons as the described above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend.

Conclusion

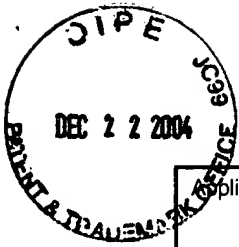
Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220/020001; P5833).

Dated: December 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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on December 22, 2004
Date

Response to Office Action mailed on October 1, 2004.

Brenda C. McFadden
Signature

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Response to Office Action dated October 1, 2004